

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (original) A connector assembly for removably interconnecting first conductors of a flat flexible circuit to a plurality of second conductors without the use of conductive terminals, comprising:

a male connector including a relatively rigid male body member having an edge about which the flexible circuit is wrapped with the first conductors of the circuit facing away from the body member at the edge thereof; and

an adapter including a first receptacle for receiving the male connector inserted edge-first into the first receptacle, and a second receptacle for receiving the second conductors in position for engaging the first conductors of the flexible circuit at the edge of the male body member.

Claims 2 through 24 (canceled).

Claim 25 (new) A connector assembly for removably interconnecting first conductors of a flat flexible circuit to a plurality of second conductors without the use of conductive terminals, comprising:

A male connector including a relatively rigid male body member having an edge about which the flexible circuit is wrapped with the first conductors of the circuit facing away from the body member at the edge thereof; and

An adapter including a first receptacle for removably receiving the male connector inserted edge-first into the first receptacle, and a second receptacle for removably receiving the second conductors in position for engaging the first conductors of the flexible circuit at the edge of the male body member;

the male body member having a thickness dimension defined by a separation distance between portions of the flat flexible circuit extending along opposing sides of the male body member when the flexible circuit is wrapped about the edge, the male body member also having a dimension extending along a direction of insertion of the edge into the first receptacle, the dimension extending along the direction of insertion being substantially greater than the thickness dimension for resisting deflection of the edge in a direction

opposite the direction of insertion during engagement between the first conductors and the second conductors.

Claim 26 (new) The connector assembly of claim 25, including a relatively yieldable backing structure on the male body member at the edge thereof beneath the flexible circuit for resiliently biasing the first conductors of the circuit against the second conductors.

Claim 27 (new) The connector assembly of claim 26 wherein said male body member is elongated and said yieldable backing structure comprises a longitudinal resilient strip along said edge.

Claim 28 (new) The connector assembly of claim 25, including positioning means on the male body member for locating the flexible circuit wrapped about said edge of the body member.

Claim 29 (new) The connector assembly of claim 28 wherein said positioning means comprises an adhesive between the male body member and the flexible circuit.

Claim 30 (new) In combination with the connector assembly of claim 25, including a second flat flexible circuit inserted into the first opening of the second receptacle of the adapter, the second flexible circuit having said second conductors engageable with said first conductors.

Claim 31 (new) In combination with the connector assembly of claim 25, including a plurality of discrete electrical wires inserted into the second opening of the second receptacle of the adapter, the discrete wires having said second conductors engageable with the first conductors of the flexible circuit.

Claim 32 (new) A connector assembly for interconnecting first conductors of a flat flexible circuit to a plurality of second conductors without the use of conductive terminals, comprising:

a male connector including a relatively rigid male body member having an edge about which the flexible circuit is wrapped with the first conductors of the circuit facing away from the body member at the edge thereof; and

a female connecting device including a receptacle for receiving the male connector inserted into the receptacle and means on the device for removably positioning said second conductors from exteriorly of the device in engagement with the first conductors of the flexible circuit at the edge of the male body member;

the edge about which the flat flexible circuit is wrapped having a length dimension, the male body member having a dimension extending along a direction of insertion of the edge into the receptacle, the dimension of the male body member extending along the direction of insertion being at least equal of the edge length dimension.

Claim 33 (new) The connector assembly of claim 32, including a relatively yieldable backing structure on the male body member at the edge thereof beneath the flexible circuit for resiliently biasing the first conductors of the circuit against the second conductors.

Claim 34 (new) The connector assembly of claim 33 wherein said male body member is elongated and said yieldable backing structure comprises a longitudinal resilient strip along said edge.

Claim 35 (new) The connector assembly of claim 32, including positioning means on the male body member for locating the flexible circuit wrapped about said edge of the body member.

Claim 36 (new) The connector assembly of claim 35 wherein said positioning means comprises an adhesive on the male body member adhering the flexible circuit thereto.

Claim 37 (new) In combination with the connector assembly of claim 32, including a second flat flexible circuit inserted into the receptacle of the female connecting device, the second flexible circuit having said second conductors engageable with said first conductors.

Claim 38 (new) In combination with the connector assembly of claim 32, including a plurality of discrete electrical wires inserted into the receptacle of the female connecting device, the discrete electrical wires having said second conductors engageable with the first conductors of the flexible circuit.

Claim 39 (new) The connector assembly of claim 25 wherein the edge about which the flat flexible circuit is wrapped has a length dimension and the dimension of the male body member extending along the direction of the insertion is at least equal to the length dimension.

Claim 40 (new) The connector assembly of claim 39 wherein the length dimension of the edge is substantially greater than the thickness dimension of the male body member.

Claim 41 (new) The connector assembly of claim 32 wherein the male body member further includes a thickness dimension defined by a separation distance between portions of the flat flexible circuit extending along opposing sides of the male body member when the flexible circuit is wrapped about the edge, and the length dimension of the edge is substantially greater than the thickness dimension.